

March 9, 1947.

Dear Mr. Zederberg,

It was a delightful surprise to learn of your marriage. Needless to say, we wish you the very best of happiness. I think you are very wise to do it at this time. If I have any regrets about my own marriage, they are that it didn't take place years earlier.

I don't remember whether or not I indicated to you that I was not contented at Norwalk. We loved the living there, but the hospital was less satisfying. Partly an adjustment problem - I missed the Navy terribly. At any rate I resigned, sold my house, & entered the Veterans' Administration. I expect to stay in the V.A., although not necessarily at this station.

The reverse will bring you up to date.

Again, best wishes & good luck! If you ever pass our way, don't neglect to look us up.

As ever,

Sheldon A. Jacobson.

January 15, 1946

Dear

After a month and a half in Wichita I am finally getting around to my correspondence. Please excuse this form; there does not seem to be much point in writing the identical material dozens of times.

To give you the bad parts first, the hospital is somewhat smaller than I had hoped - 250 beds - and relative to the size, there is little straight Pathology, nevertheless, I feel that I can be happy here. The administration locally seems to be alert, intelligent and progressive. I shall have plenty of time for research and I think I will be given encouragement. The Laboratory is badly overcrowded, as so many hospital Laboratories are. Relief, however, is in sight. The technicians were an agreeable surprise, they are well trained and interested, all but one of the five is a college graduate with Science majors. They are active and the spirit in the Laboratory is a good one. I do not find any sign of the negligence and laziness of which people outside the VA have warned me. As high a proportion of the Doctors here, as elsewhere, seem to be genuinely interested in what they are doing. So, all in all, things are looking up.

Wichita is a fine looking city with very nice residential sections, true it is flat and outside of town there is only the prairie. There are two Universities in town and there seem to be major visiting stage and music (good music) attractions oftener than once a month. On first impression the people are friendly.

We have a car at last. A new Chev. I wrote to the National Sales Manager conceding that I could hardly expect a local dealer to throw his old customers overboard in my behalf, but pointing out that it was not fair that I should lose my precedence with the company because of my removal here. He promptly wrote back to the local dealer directing him to sell me a new car. I bought a new Chev for \$1202.00, plus only such accessories as I wanted. They were very courteous. The Plymouth people, incidentally, wrote back that they could do nothing, now, of course, I don't need one.

The housing situation is terribly tight. I was fortunate enough to get an apartment, which was formerly the upper story of a one family, house on a pleasant tree lined street. It consists of kitchen, living room, two bedrooms and a sleeping porch. Not exactly what I should select, but very good under the circumstances and at a moderate rental. I signed a years lease on it.

The family arrived on New Years eve and it was mighty nice to have them again. We are all well and settled down pretty well amid the new furniture and surroundings. I bought a two month old Irish setter pup for the boys but he was in poor shape and lasted less than two weeks, the second of them in the hospital. It is fortunate that we did not have time enough to become deeply attached to him. I shall get another.

This hospital represents a unique experiment. It is the only one in the country in which a Medical School (Kansas University) is sponsoring a residency training program at a distance of 250 miles. It does this by nominating certain specialists in town to serve as consultants. They consider the Doctors here as particularly alert and competent. The Boards are supposed to give credit for the residencys. How the program will work out is too early to say.

I do not think that I will be coming east this year. The American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists is meeting in Chicago in May and I plan to attend the meeting. In August we shall pack a couple of tents into the car and spend a short three weeks visiting one or more of the National parks in Colorado.

One thing I miss is the newspapers. The standards of journalism here seem to be very low. There is little news in the papers.

Much as I miss the beautiful house and lovely countryside that we had in Connecticut, I do not think I shall regret the change, certainly I am incomparably happier in my work.

Eric has started kindergarten in a beautiful, newly built, school not too far from our residence.

There seems to be quite a shortage of Doctors in town. I am told that even in severe illness it is almost impossible to get a Doctor to come to the house.

The hospital is an attractive colonial brick structure at the edge of town. A couple of miles further is an oil field. About it and the town in every direction are fields of winter wheat. The maximum difference in elevation I should estimate at not over fifty feet. The big and little Arkansas rivers meet in the middle of the city to form the Arkansas. They are in part, attractively parked. There are a number of smaller parks.

There is much to do about resubmitting to the voters, the state's current dryness. It seems that the big supporters of the prohibition laws are the rural churches and the urban bootleggers. The city is Protestant by a big majority with several Catholic churches and two synagogues. There are five aircraft factories and apparently as yet, little unemployment. Living prices, notably food, are appreciably lower. Far as we are from the seacoast, fish is high - the rich people eat it, but the poor people have to be content with steak. You can get a good sized steak, tasty and tender, in a restaurant for less than a dollar.

I guess that will do you for vital statistics and for my current status. All of us hope that you and yours are well. Let's hear from you.

As ever,